

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently amended): ~~A retractor~~ An apparatus comprising:

a shaft having open proximal and distal ends defining a lumen therethrough; and
an inflatable bladder disposed at ~~an~~ the distal end of the shaft and in fluid communication with the lumen, wherein the inflatable bladder ~~has, upon inflation, is capable of separating adjacent layers of tissue thereby creating a working space~~ a non-uniform and has a shape selected from the group consisting of: eccentric, conical, and wedge-shaped.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The ~~retractor~~ apparatus of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The ~~retractor~~ apparatus of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at pressures from about 10 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The ~~retractor~~ apparatus of claim 17, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 100 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

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Claim 19 (Currently amended): The ~~retractor~~ apparatus of claim 15, wherein the shaft is rigid.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The ~~retractor~~ apparatus of claim 15, wherein the shaft is flexible.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The ~~retractor~~ apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a cannula having a passage which receives the shaft to deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the bladder comprises a wedge-shaped bladder.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 23, wherein the bladder comprises a wedge-shaped bladder having an accordion structure.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the bladder has an accordion structure.

Claim 26 (New): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein, upon inflation, longitudinal movement of the inflatable bladder separates adjacent layers of tissue.